

Maryland Monthly Labor Review

MARCH, 1994

**Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development
Office of Labor Market Analysis and Information
1100 North Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201**

**William Donald Schaefer, Governor
Mark L. Wasserman, Secretary**

LABOR FORCE DEVELOPMENTS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE

Following the stability of February, the labor market status of Maryland residents was noticeably changed in March. A decline in the number of jobseekers, coupled with a modest increase in the number of employed, caused the statewide jobless rate to drop substantially from 6.5 percent in February to 5.8 percent in March. The statewide decline was indicative of the national movement which showed joblessness falling by 0.3 percentage points to 6.8 percent.

Unemployment rates were lower during March in twenty-three of the state's local jurisdictions.

ten of which reported declines of a full percentage point or better.

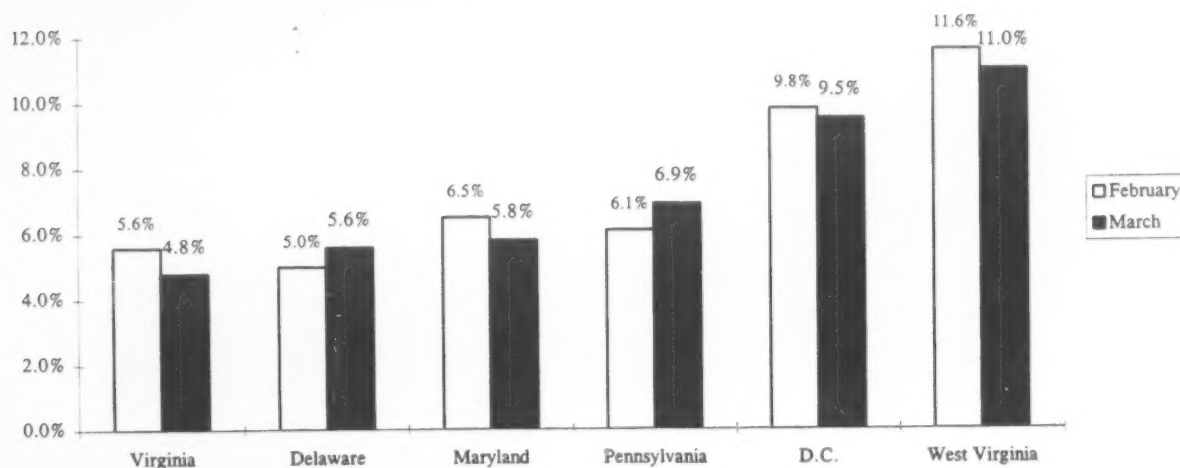
While the withdrawal of workers from the labor market was the primary factor responsible for reducing joblessness over the month, employment also grew, adding nearly 1,100 workers to the 2,494,408 who held jobs in February. The number of unemployed workers fell to 153,415, the lowest level since September 1991. Following seasonal adjustment, the number of unemployed were also fewer, causing the jobless rate to inch down from 6.0 percent to 5.7 percent.

	March 1994	Unadjusted February 1994	Seasonally March 1994	Adjusted February 1994
Civilian Labor Force	2,648,893	2,666,537	2,663,125	2,698,679
Total Employment	2,495,478	2,494,408	2,511,911	2,535,716
Total Unemployment	153,415	172,129	151,214	162,963
Unemployment Rate	5.8	6.5	5.7	6.0
National Unemployment Rate	6.8	7.1	6.5	6.5

With the exception of Delaware and Pennsylvania, declining joblessness was the norm throughout the region. Delaware, which in February maintained a regional low at 5.0 percent, reported a rate of 5.6 percent in March. With this increase,

Virginia was able to overtake Delaware in the ranking. While unemployment trends were mixed, all states, with the exception of Delaware, reported rising employment.

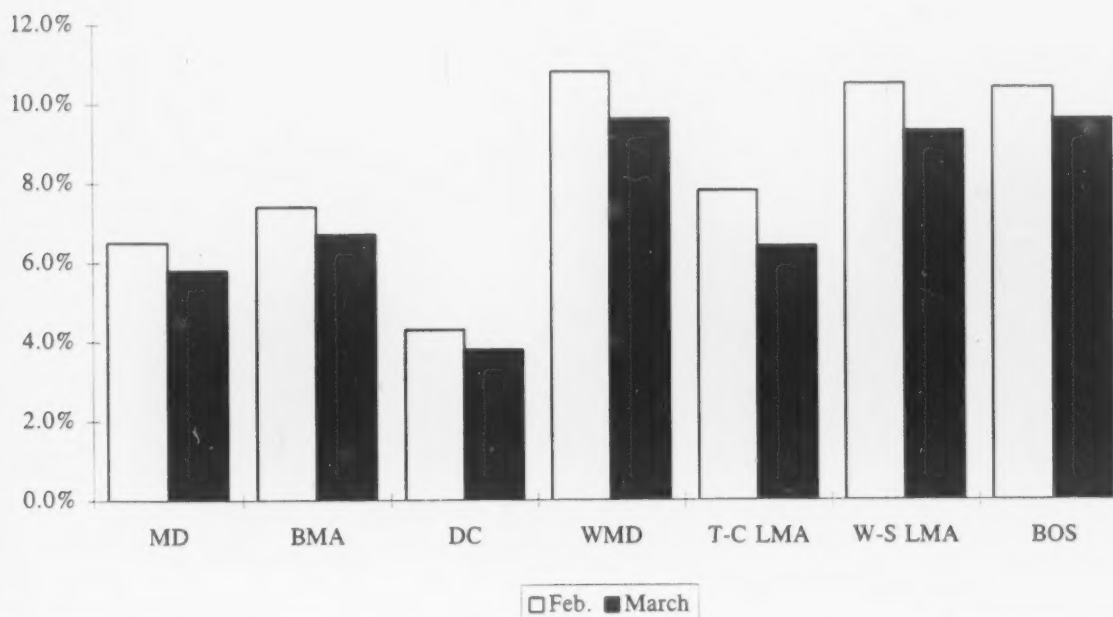
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN NEIGHBORING STATES--MARCH 1994



TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - MARYLAND AND REGIONS

	MARCH 1994		FEBRUARY 1994	
	NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE
MARYLAND	153,415	5.8	172,129	6.5
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA	80,137	6.7	89,008	7.4
MARYLAND'S D.C. SUBURBS	42,693	3.8	48,813	4.3
WESTERN MARYLAND	10,980	9.6	12,470	10.8
TALBOT-CAROLINE LMA	2,101	6.4	2,561	7.8
WICOMICO-SOMERSET LMA	5,239	9.3	5,924	10.5
BALANCE OF STATE	12,266	9.6	13,353	10.4

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
FEBRUARY AND MARCH 1994**



REGIONAL ECONOMICS

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA

During March, the jobless rate in the BMA moved down by 0.7 percentage points, its largest over the month decline in more than six months, to 6.7 percent. About 8,900 fewer persons were unemployed in March than in February, a decline which lowered the jobless count to 80,137. Labor force reductions caused jobless rates to tumble throughout the region, with the largest declines occurring in Carroll and Harford counties. Baltimore City's rate, while the highest in the

region, dropped to 9.6 percent - it's lowest level in over two years. Jobseekers looking for work within the region during March found opportunities most plentiful in the services and construction industries. Nearly one-third of the employment gain in services occurred in the business services sector while, in construction, hiring activity was strongest among special trade contractors.

MARYLAND'S D.C. SUBURBS

Employment in the region was little changed during March, however, the number of unemployed fell by more than 6,100 persons as workers exited the job market. With this decline, the regional unemployment rate dropped from 4.3 percent in February to 3.8 percent in March. Declining joblessness was the norm throughout the region. Montgomery County's rate, which consistently ranks as both the lowest in the region and the state, fell from 3.4 percent in February

to 2.9 percent in March. In Frederick County, where the largest decline occurred, industrial activity was driven by continuing recalls in education. On a regional basis, hiring activity was reported in every major industry line with the exception of communications. The services industry was the largest source of opportunities, with upturns reported in amusements and business, health, social and miscellaneous services industries.

WESTERN MARYLAND

Unemployment impacted upon an estimated 9.6 percent of the Western region's labor force during March, down from 10.8 percent in February. In both Allegany and Garrett counties, unemployment rates while declining by more than a full percentage point, nonetheless continued in the double-digit range at 10.4 percent and 13.1 percent, respectively. In these counties, however, where inclement weather tends to be an inhibiting

factor, unemployment rates of this magnitude are not uncommon. Washington County rounded out the regional perspective with an unemployment rate of 8.5 percent in March, down from February's rate of 9.5 percent. At the regional level, about 500 jobs were added to industry payrolls over the month. Among private sector employers, hiring was foremost in manufacturing, construction, business services and food stores.

TALBOT-CAROLINE LMA

Employment in the area rose by nearly 400 people in March, causing the jobless rate to fall sharply from 7.8 percent in February to 6.4 percent in March. Talbot County's rate improved markedly,

dropping by two full percentage points to 5.2 percent in March, with recalls in manufacturing contributing to this decline.

WICOMICO-SOMERSET LMA

The number of employed in this lower shore region increased by more than 750 persons, a gain which helped to accommodate a modest increase in the labor force and drop the unemployment rate by more than a full percentage point to 9.3 percent.

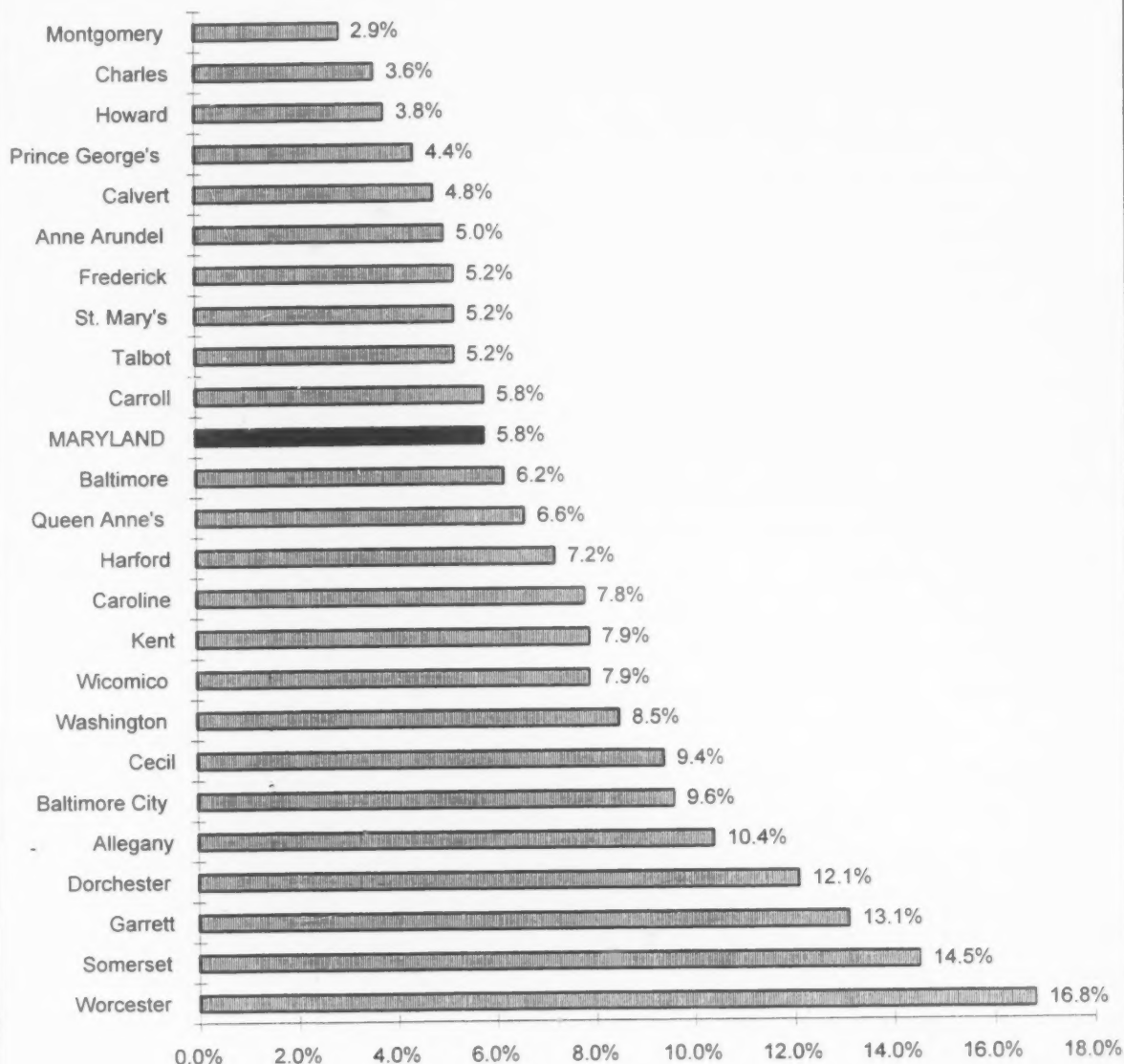
Employment growth helped to ease joblessness in both counties, with recalls in education and hiring in transportation increasing local job availability.

BALANCE OF STATE

Unemployment in the region dropped by 0.8 percentage points to 9.6 percent in March. Declining unemployment was the norm throughout the region with the exception of Worcester County where labor force expansion

outpaced employment gains, adding about 130 workers to the unemployment rolls. During March, seasonal expansion in the trade and services industries helped to improve regional labor market conditions.

LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES--MARCH 1994



STATE OF MARYLAND
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE
MARCH 1994

AREA	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	MARCH	FEBRUARY*	MARCH	FEBRUARY*	MARCH	FEBRUARY*	MARCH	FEB.*	MAR.1993***
MARYLAND	2,648,893	2,666,537	2,495,478	2,494,408	153,415	172,129	5.8	6.5	6.3
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA	1,194,784	1,204,124	1,114,647	1,115,116	80,137	89,008	6.7	7.4	7.4
BALTIMORE CITY	313,433	316,177	283,416	283,535	30,017	32,642	9.6	10.3	10.1
ANNE ARUNDEL	222,918	224,277	211,664	211,753	11,254	12,524	5.0	5.6	6.0
BALTIMORE	363,097	365,983	340,666	340,810	22,431	25,173	6.2	6.9	7.0
CARROLL	67,549	68,354	63,645	63,672	3,904	4,682	5.8	6.8	7.1
HARFORD	98,735	99,895	91,620	91,659	7,115	8,236	7.2	8.2	7.3
HOWARD	111,337	111,553	107,087	107,132	4,250	4,421	3.8	4.0	3.9
QUEEN ANNE'S	17,716	17,886	16,549	16,556	1,167	1,330	6.6	7.4	7.1
D. C. AREA	1,122,904	1,129,247	1,080,211	1,080,434	42,693	48,813	3.8	4.3	4.2
CALVERT	32,522	32,718	30,970	30,976	1,552	1,742	4.8	5.3	5.1
CHARLES	59,364	59,694	57,236	57,248	2,128	2,446	3.6	4.1	4.4
FREDERICK	94,097	95,049	89,195	89,214	4,902	5,835	5.2	6.1	5.8
MONTGOMERY	475,871	478,141	462,003	462,098	13,868	16,043	2.9	3.4	3.2
PRINCE GEORGE'S	461,049	463,644	440,806	440,897	20,243	22,747	4.4	4.9	4.8
WESTERN MARYLAND	113,996	115,498	103,016	103,028	10,980	12,470	9.6	10.8	10.4
ALLEGANY	34,429	34,822	30,837	30,704	3,592	4,118	10.4	11.8	11.7
GARRETT	13,676	13,863	11,883	11,884	1,793	1,979	13.1	14.3	13.8
WASHINGTON	65,891	66,813	60,296	60,440	5,595	6,373	8.5	9.5	8.9
TALBOT-CAROLINE LMA	32,599	32,677	30,498	30,116	2,101	2,561	6.4	7.8	7.4
CAROLINE	15,167	15,091	13,979	13,804	1,188	1,287	7.8	8.5	9.7
TALBOT	17,432	17,586	16,519	16,312	913	1,274	5.2	7.2	5.2
WICOMICO-SOMERSET LMA	56,608	56,537	51,369	50,613	5,239	5,924	9.3	10.5	9.1
SOMERSET	11,413	11,407	9,759	9,615	1,654	1,792	14.5	15.7	14.7
WICOMICO	45,195	45,130	41,610	40,998	3,585	4,132	7.9	9.2	7.7
BALANCE OF STATE	128,004	128,454	115,738	115,101	12,266	13,353	9.6	10.4	9.5
CECIL	38,068	38,956	34,493	34,687	3,575	4,269	9.4	11.0	9.4
DORCHESTER	16,683	16,521	14,658	14,429	2,025	2,092	12.1	12.7	12.1
KENT	10,195	10,172	9,388	9,209	807	963	7.9	9.5	8.7
ST. MARY'S	40,935	41,051	38,788	38,602	2,147	2,449	5.2	6.0	5.9
WORCESTER	22,123	21,754	18,411	18,174	3,712	3,580	16.8	16.5	14.8
UNITED STATES**	129,718,000	129,764,000	120,844,000	120,503,000	8,874,000	9,262,000	6.8	7.1	7.3

*Estimates for the state are revised.

**Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

***Data for 1994 are not directly comparable with data for 1993 and earlier years. Further information is available upon request.

NOTE: Figures may not add due to rounding. These are estimates relating to the week of the 12th of each month. The count is of persons not jobs. All data are not seasonally adjusted.

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS BY PLACE OF WORK

Following February's disappointing performance, Maryland's businesses dug out from the winter snows to begin their seasonal hiring. Rising employment was the norm across the state's four regions. With the exception of the manufacturing and finance sectors, employment rose in every major industry line, producing an overall increase of 18,900 jobs. March's increase is the best gain for the month since 1990. Just over one-third of the monthly gain resulted from expansion in the services sector, with seasonal job generation prodding the increase.

A number of individual services industries reported higher job totals in March, with business and agricultural services making the strongest showings. These two industries, when combined, accounted for about four out of every ten jobs added in the services group. Seasonal gains uplifted employment in hotels and in amusements where the reopening of racetracks and golf courses, particularly at local country clubs, increased employment needs. Health services added about 700 jobs in March, recouping some of the losses reported in the first part of 1994. Elsewhere in services, activity, of note, was reported in educational services where recalls continued at private colleges.

Seasonal employment patterns also prevailed in the public sector where recalls at local boards of education and community colleges was the driving force behind the monthly employment gain. Local governments also began to beef up their payrolls, adding workers to their outdoor maintenance crews.

Payrolls also grew in trade establishments, with reported hiring during March adding about 4,000 jobs. Expansion in trade was centered primarily in the retail component. Local restaurants were the big job producers while modest gains were reported at building material/garden supply stores and auto dealers and service stations.

Employment in the construction trades began to come out of its winter slump, gaining about 2,700 jobs over the month. March's increase was across the board, with all three construction components reporting higher job totals. Construction activity

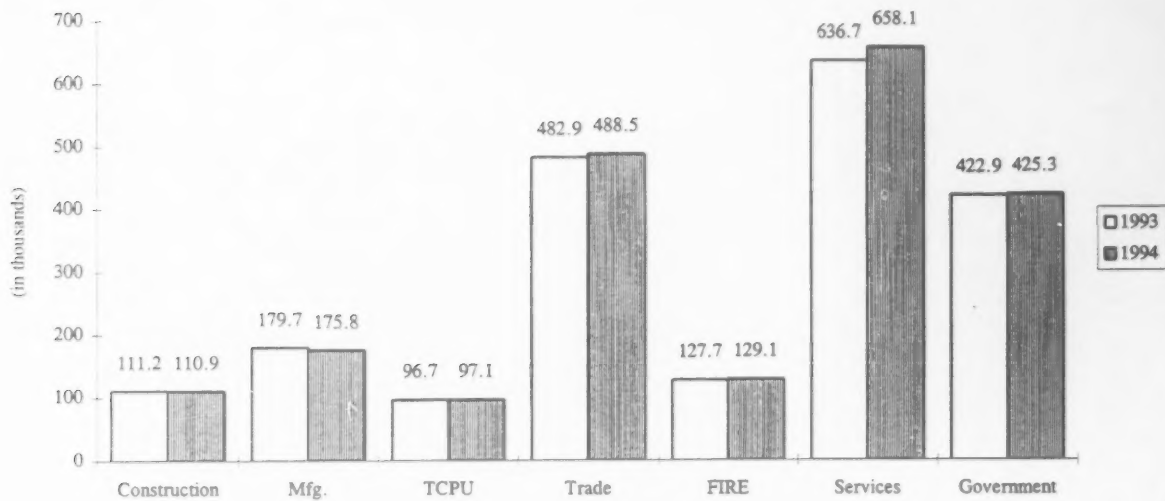
picked up across the state, with hiring in special trades fueling regional performance.

The transportation/communication/utilities sector picked up an additional 1,000 jobs during March. Job gains were restricted to the transportation sector with hiring/recalls in water transportation and miscellaneous transportation services contributing to the industry upturn. Meanwhile, in finance, insurance and real estate, the sole declining industry during March, hiring in real estate was canceled out by declines in both finance and insurance. In all, about 100 fewer jobs were reported in the industry during March.

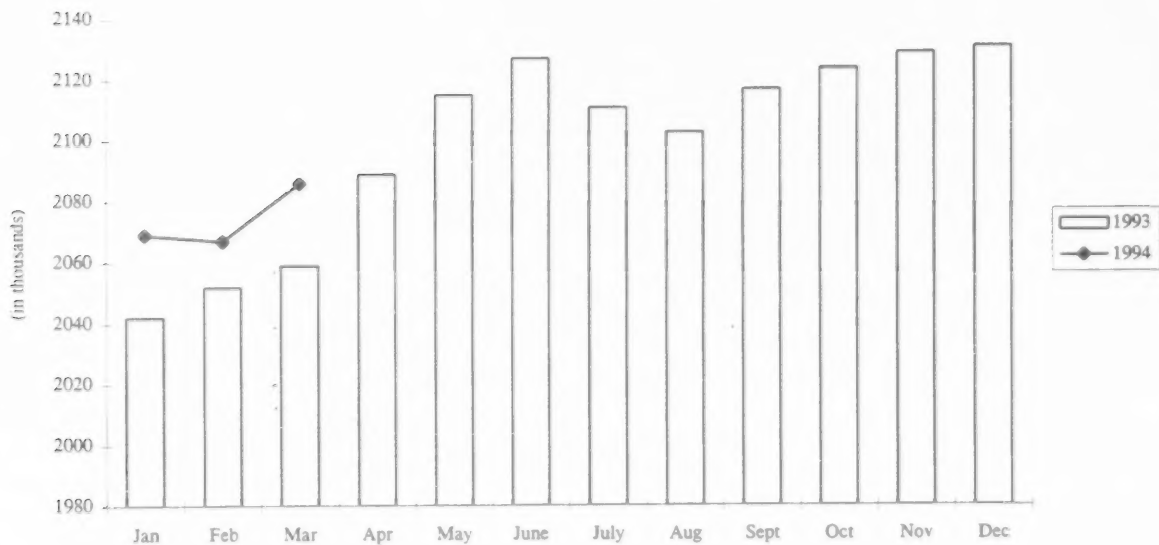
The manufacturing industry held its own during March, maintaining a job count of 175,800. Within manufacturing, however, performance was mixed with job gains in durables and a corresponding drop in nondurables. Overall, about 300 jobs were added in durable goods industries, a gain tied to increases in lumber, stone and fabricated metals manufacturing. In nondurable goods, while gains were reported in food and paper products, a downward trend prevailed due to reductions in printing and rubber products. The largest drop occurred in rubber products where employment was diminished by about 400 jobs during March due to strike activity.

While the employment trend in manufacturing was steady, the movement in hours and earnings was particularly noteworthy. Workweeks were extended by more than 2.0 full hours over the month, rising to 41.0 hours in March. Once again, it appears that more manufacturers are opting to keep production going by increasing workweeks rather than by hiring additional workers. The lengthening of workweeks meant higher paychecks despite a drop in hourly earnings. In durable goods industries where all but primary metals and transportation equipment reported longer workweeks, production workers put in an additional 2.1 hours per week and earned about \$15.00 more in their weekly paychecks. In nondurables, the addition of 2.7 hours increased the workweek to 40.1 hours in March, causing weekly paychecks to rise by 6.5 percent to \$490.42.

**MARYLAND NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY
MARCH 1993 AND MARCH 1994**



**TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT
JANUARY 1993 THROUGH MARCH 1994**



NOTE: Data are not seasonally adjusted.

MARYLAND
NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT* BY INDUSTRY
BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)
MARCH 1994

Industry	March 1994	February** 1994	March 1993	Percent Change March 1993- March 1994
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	2,085.9	2,067.0	2,058.9	1.3
Goods Producing	287.8	285.0	292.0	-1.4
Mining	1.1	1.0	1.1	0.0
Construction	110.9	108.2	111.2	-0.3
Heavy Construction	11.7	10.9	11.8	-0.8
Manufacturing	175.8	175.8	179.7	-2.2
Durable Goods	85.8	85.5	87.7	-2.2
Lumber & Wood Products	3.7	3.6	3.6	2.8
Stone, Clay, & Glass Products	6.4	6.3	6.3	1.6
Concrete, Gypsum, Plaster	3.8	3.7	3.7	2.7
Other Stone, Clay, & Glass	2.6	2.6	2.6	0.0
Primary Metal Industries	8.3	8.3	8.8	-5.7
Blast Furnaces	6.7	6.7	7.1	-5.6
Fabricated Metal Products	8.3	8.2	8.4	-1.2
Fabricated Structural Metal Products	3.1	3.0	3.3	-6.1
Other Fabricated Metal Products (Inc. 342,343,345-349)	4.4	4.4	4.4	0.0
Industrial Machinery	14.4	14.4	14.6	-1.4
Refrigeration & Service Machinery	2.3	2.3	2.4	-4.2
Other Industrial Machinery & Equipment (Inc. 352-357)	8.1	8.1	8.3	-2.4
Electronic Equipment	13.0	13.0	13.0	0.0
Communications Equipment	5.0	5.0	4.6	8.7
Electronic Component	3.1	3.1	3.3	-6.1
Other Electronic Equipment	4.9	4.9	5.1	-3.9
Transportation Equipment	10.3	10.3	11.0	-6.4
Motor Vehicles	4.5	4.6	4.6	-2.2
Other Transportation (Inc. 372-375,379)	3.9	3.9	4.2	-7.1
Instruments & Related	16.2	16.2	17.0	-4.7
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	2.2	2.2	2.1	4.8
Nondurable Goods	90.0	90.3	92.0	-2.2
Food & Kindred Products	21.3	21.2	22.0	-3.2
Meat Products	5.1	5.0	5.5	-7.3
Beverages	3.9	3.9	3.8	2.6
Other Food & Kindred (Inc. 202-207)	7.7	7.7	8.2	-6.1
Textile Mill, Apparel	8.7	8.7	8.7	0.0
Paper & Allied Products	8.5	8.4	8.9	-4.5
Printing & Publishing	27.5	27.6	27.5	0.0
Chemicals and Allied Products	13.5	13.5	14.0	-3.6
Rubber & Miscellaneous Plastics	8.4	8.8	8.7	-3.4

Industry	March 1994	February** 1994	March 1993	Percent Change March 1993- March 1994
Service Producing	1,798.1	1,782.0	1,766.9	1.8
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	97.1	96.1	96.7	0.4
Transportation	55.7	54.7	53.8	3.5
Railroad Transportation	2.9	2.9	2.9	0.0
Trucking & Warehousing	28.1	28.1	27.3	2.9
Communications & Utilities	41.4	41.4	42.9	-3.5
Communications	26.4	26.4	26.5	-0.4
Electric, Gas, Sanitary	15.0	15.0	16.4	-8.5
Trade	488.5	484.5	482.9	1.2
Wholesale Trade	100.4	100.2	100.0	0.4
Retail Trade	388.1	384.3	382.9	1.4
Building Materials, Garden Supplies	15.8	15.1	15.7	0.6
General Merchandise Stores	39.9	39.8	41.1	-2.9
Food Stores	64.6	64.5	61.8	4.5
Eating & Drinking Places	123.5	121.2	122.0	1.2
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	129.1	129.2	127.7	1.1
Finance	59.7	59.8	57.7	3.5
Depository Institutions	39.0	39.1	38.7	0.8
Commercial Banks	25.3	25.3	25.5	-0.8
Insurance	35.9	36.0	36.8	-2.4
Insurance Carriers	24.1	24.2	24.5	-1.6
Real Estate	33.5	33.4	33.2	0.9
Services	658.1	651.6	636.7	3.4
Business Services	140.4	139.0	132.0	6.4
Health Services	179.0	178.3	173.9	2.9
Hospitals	81.5	81.2	81.5	0.0
Legal Services	15.6	15.6	15.4	1.3
Educational Services	40.3	39.4	39.9	1.0
Private Colleges, Universities	23.3	22.5	22.8	2.2
Total Government	425.3	420.6	422.9	0.6
Total Federal Government	132.1	132.2	135.0	-2.1
Total State & Local Government	293.2	288.4	287.9	1.8
Total State Government	96.9	96.1	96.2	0.7
State Education	34.6	33.9	35.3	-2.0
Other State Government	62.3	62.2	60.9	2.3
Total Local Government	196.3	192.3	191.7	2.4
Local Education	121.2	118.2	118.4	2.4
Other Local Government	75.1	74.1	73.3	2.5

*The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

NOTE: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding and exclusion of some SIC's.

Data are not seasonally adjusted.

**Estimates are revised.

Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT* BY INDUSTRY
BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)
BY REGION--MARCH 1994

Industry	Baltimore Metropolitan Area		Maryland Portion D.C. Suburbs		Western Maryland		Eastern Shore- Southern Maryland	
	Mar. 1994	Feb. 1994**	Mar. 1994	Feb. 1994**	Mar. 1994	Feb. 1994**	Mar. 1994	Feb. 1994**
Total Nonagricultural Employment	1,077.9	1,069.5	767.6	761.4	92.0	91.5	139.8	138.1
Goods Producing	157.8	156.8	82.0	79.6	19.7	19.4	28.9	28.8
Mining	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.2
Construction	52.4	51.0	48.0	45.8	4.1	4.0	7.2	7.1
Manufacturing	105.3	105.7	33.8	33.6	15.0	14.8	21.5	21.5
Durable Goods	53.6	53.7	17.1	17.0	6.6	6.5	8.7	8.6
Nondurable Goods	51.7	52.0	16.7	16.6	8.4	8.3	12.8	12.9
Service Producing	920.1	912.7	685.6	681.8	72.3	72.1	110.9	109.3
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	51.5	51.0	31.1	31.2	5.2	5.2	8.4	8.2
Trade	242.7	242.0	182.7	182.3	23.9	24.0	33.9	33.7
Wholesale Trade	58.9	58.6	30.8	31.0	4.5	4.5	5.3	5.3
Retail Trade	183.8	183.4	151.9	151.3	19.4	19.5	28.6	28.4
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	72.1	72.2	47.5	47.4	3.2	3.2	4.8	4.8
Services	342.4	339.2	253.5	250.9	23.7	23.6	35.6	35.2
Total Government	211.4	208.3	170.8	170.0	16.3	16.1	28.2	27.4
Federal	48.0	48.0	74.6	74.8	1.7	1.8	6.8	6.8
State	68.6	67.8	19.2	19.0	5.0	4.9	6.0	5.6
Local	94.8	92.5	77.0	76.2	9.6	9.4	15.4	15.0

*The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

**Estimates are revised.

Selected data below the major industry level is available upon request. Estimates are also available for Baltimore City.

Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

NOTE: Data are not seasonally adjusted.

**HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN SELECTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES
MARCH 1994**

Industry	Average Weekly Hours		Average Weekly Earnings		Average Hourly Earnings	
	Mar. 1994	Feb. 1994	Mar. 1994	Feb. 1994	Mar. 1994	Feb. 1994
MARYLAND						
Manufacturing	41.0	38.6	\$530.54	\$503.73	\$12.94	\$13.05
Durable Goods	42.1	40.0	581.40	556.80	13.81	13.92
Lumber and Wood Products	39.5	36.5	357.48	328.50	9.05	9.00
Stone, Clay, and Glass Products	42.8	37.1	518.74	450.77	12.12	12.15
Primary Metal Industries	44.0	44.3	794.20	800.50	18.05	18.07
Fabricated Metals	43.1	39.4	504.70	462.16	11.71	11.73
Industrial Machinery	44.7	41.5	638.32	588.89	14.28	14.19
Electronic Equipment	42.0	39.0	511.56	463.71	12.18	11.89
Transportation Equipment	39.4	40.7	664.28	698.01	16.86	17.15
Instruments and Related Products	40.5	39.8	560.93	545.26	13.85	13.70
Miscellaneous Manufacturing Industries	38.0	36.0	382.66	361.80	10.07	10.05
Nondurable Goods	40.1	37.4	490.42	461.14	12.23	12.33
Food and Kindred Products	40.7	39.1	482.30	452.00	11.85	11.56
Textile Mill, Apparel	37.0	30.0	306.36	237.00	8.28	7.90
Paper and Allied Products	40.0	36.5	510.00	487.28	12.75	13.35
Printing and Publishing	38.5	37.3	550.55	529.66	14.30	14.20
Chemicals and Allied Products	43.0	40.7	576.20	573.87	13.40	14.10
Rubber and Plastic Products	41.5	38.5	439.90	404.25	10.60	10.50
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA						
Manufacturing	41.3	38.4	\$558.79	\$528.77	\$13.53	\$13.77
Durable Goods	43.2	40.1	633.74	603.10	14.67	15.04
Nondurable Goods	39.7	37.0	494.27	465.83	12.45	12.59

NOTE: Data are not seasonally adjusted.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

	March 1994	February 1994	March 1993
Initial Claims	19,558	20,227	25,679
Weeks Claimed	276,778	255,692	286,367
First Payments	10,048	14,220	12,860
Final Payments	6,856	4,327	1,270
Weeks Paid	228,337	210,983	236,012
Net Benefit Amount	\$41,219,777	\$38,027,604	\$42,900,544
Average Check Amount	\$180.52	\$180.24	\$181.77

Initial claims filings declined for the second consecutive month, falling by about 3.3 percent to 19,558. As a rule, initial claims activity normally drops off in March as the job market begins to open up with early spring time expansion. This year's decline, quite small by historical standards, was undoubtedly limited by the lingering winter weather conditions which curtailed activity in a number of industries. Fewer filings were reported in each of the state's four regions, with the Balance of State Area reporting the highest percentage decline of 9.3 percent. At the local level, the Bel Air unemployment office showed the largest downward movement.

While initial claims were fewer, the number of weeks claimed advanced, a movement not uncharacteristic for the month, by 8.2 percent to

276,778. Even with this increase, weeks claimed were just over 3.0 percent below the March 1993 level. Just over 228,300 weeks were compensated during March, up from 210,983 in February. Nearly 50.0 percent of the statewide increase was centered in the Baltimore Metropolitan Area where an additional 8,555 weeks were compensated in March. At the state level, first payments accounted for about 4.4 percent of all weeks compensated while final payments, which have recently been adjusted upward to correct a reporting error, represented about 3.0 percent of the monthly payments.

During March, the net benefit amount increased to about \$41.2 million in response to both the jump in weeks paid and the rise in the average check to \$180.52.

REGIONAL INDICATORS MARCH 1994

	BMA	DC Suburbs	Western Maryland	Balance of State
Initial Claims	10,279	5,131	1,998	2,104
Weeks Claimed	134,489	59,843	24,056	34,721
First Payments	5,384	2,254	760	873
Final Payments	3,978	1,560	469	598
Weeks Paid	112,148	49,930	20,857	29,799
Net Benefit Amount	\$20,395,081	\$9,541,645	\$3,492,955	\$4,794,877
Average Check Amount	\$181.86	\$191.10	\$167.47	\$160.91

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Baltimore, Maryland 21201

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Maryland Monthly Labor Review

April, 1994



Office of Labor Market Analysis and Information
1100 North Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

William Donald Schaefer, Governor
Mark L. Wasserman, Secretary

LABOR FORCE DEVELOPMENTS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE

Maryland's number of jobless workers and the rate of unemployment declined for the second consecutive month as the labor force continued to downsize. Joblessness in the state dropped from 5.8 percent in March to 5.2 percent in April, its lowest level in three and one-half years. Unemployment rates were lower in twenty-three of the state's local jurisdictions, more than half of which reported declines of a full percentage point or better.

The national rate, while declining by a like 0.6 percentage points, remained well above the statewide rate at 6.2 percent.

Employment among Maryland's residents, which has steadily increased since January, rose by just over 1,600 persons to 2,496,227 in April. This gain, coupled with a drop of 15,287 in the monthly

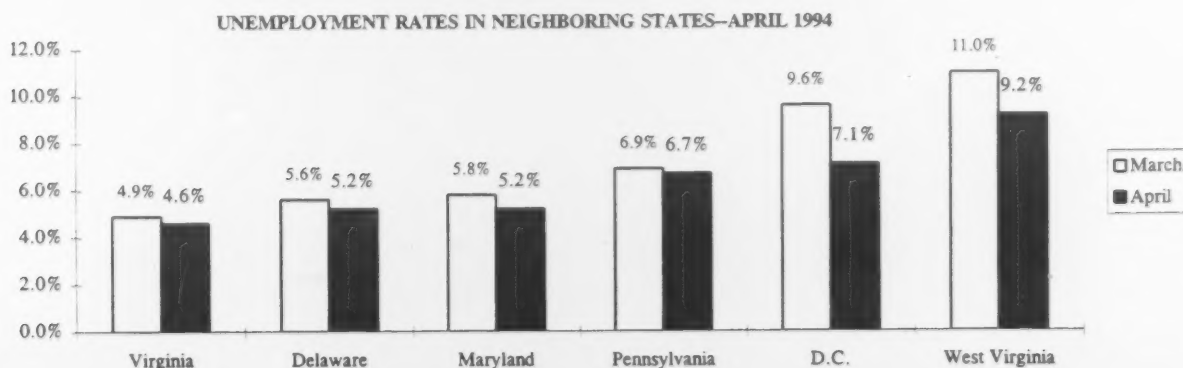
count of jobseekers, was responsible for lowering unemployment by about 16,900 persons to 135,969. Following seasonal adjustment, the number of jobless workers was also fewer in April and the rate was down by 0.3 percentage points to 5.4 percent.

April tends to be highly seasonal, a month when employment expansion normally triggers jobless declines. This year's labor market reacted more to the withdrawal of workers from the job market. Given the slow pace of the recovery and the atypical movements in the labor force over the past few months, the current changes may merely represent a readjustment. Movements over the next few months will hopefully reestablish normal patterns.

	April 1994	Unadjusted March 1994	Seasonally Adjusted April 1994	Seasonally Adjusted March 1994
Civilian Labor Force	2,632,196	2,647,483	2,645,177	2,661,715
Total Employment	2,496,227	2,494,606	2,502,740	2,511,039
Total Unemployment	135,969	152,877	142,437	150,676
Unemployment Rate	5.2	5.8	5.4	5.7
National Unemployment Rate	6.2	6.8	6.4	6.5

During April, declining unemployment was the norm throughout the region. The largest movement occurred in D.C. where unemployment dropped by 2.5 percentage points to 7.1 percent

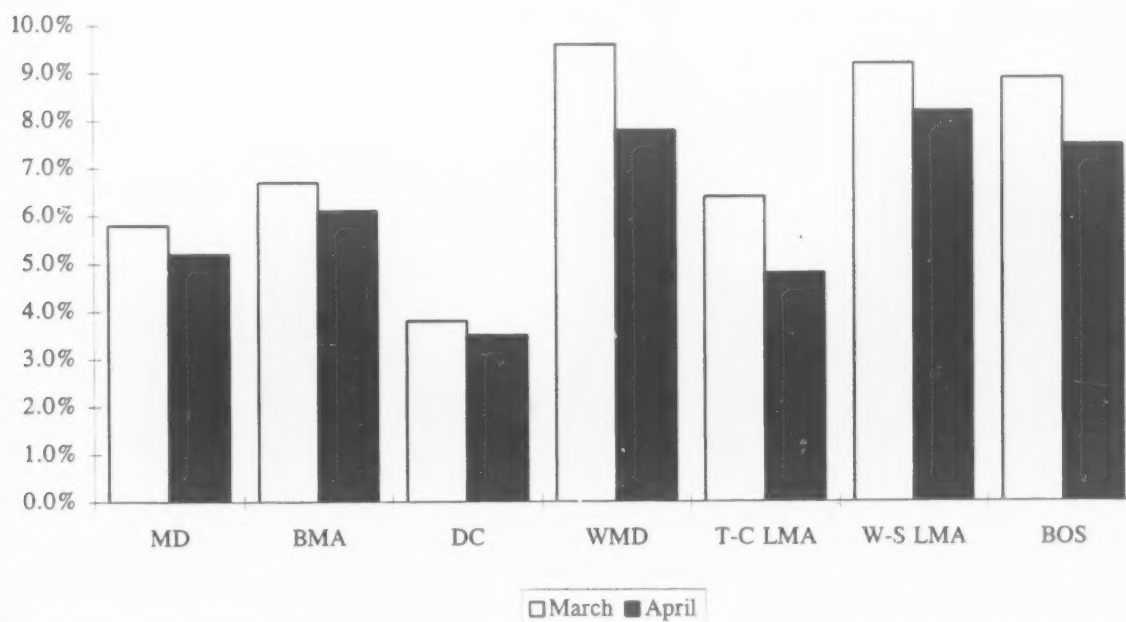
in April. Unemployment in the region ranged from a low of 4.6 percent in Virginia to a high of 9.2 percent in West Virginia.



TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - MARYLAND AND REGIONS

	APRIL 1994		MARCH 1994	
	NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE
MARYLAND	135,969	5.2	152,877	5.8
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA	72,682	6.1	80,306	6.7
MARYLAND'S D.C. SUBURBS	38,648	3.5	42,917	3.8
WESTERN MARYLAND	8,838	7.8	10,971	9.6
TALBOT-CAROLINE LMA	1,567	4.8	2,089	6.4
WICOMICO-SOMERSET LMA	4,709	8.2	5,230	9.2
BALANCE OF STATE	9,525	7.5	11,363	8.9

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
MARCH AND APRIL 1994**



REGIONAL ECONOMICS

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA

Unemployment in the region fell for the second consecutive month, dropping by 0.6 percentage points to 6.1 percent. Labor force patterns were reflective of the statewide movement in that the withdrawal of workers from the job market contributed to declining joblessness. At the local level, employment advanced and unemployment declined in each jurisdiction. In both Carroll and Harford counties, jobless rates fell by more than a full percentage point. Baltimore City's rate, while dropping only slightly from 9.6 percent to

9.4 percent, was, nonetheless, at its lowest level in more than three years. Throughout the region, jobseekers benefited from seasonal hiring in the construction, trade and services industries. In construction, heavy trade contractors offered the most openings while, in retail trade, gains were almost exclusively centered within the restaurant industry. Expansion in services, while more widespread, was heavily concentrated in amusements and business services.

MARYLAND'S D.C. SUBURBS

In Maryland's D.C. Suburbs, the only region in the state where employment declined, the withdrawal of workers from the job market offset this decline and, at the same time, reduced the regional unemployment count by more than 4,250 persons. With fewer persons on the unemployment rolls, the jobless rate was also lower in April, dropping by 0.3 percentage points to 3.5 percent. Labor force reductions contributed to declining

joblessness throughout the region, with the largest movement occurring in Frederick County. While residential employment was down during the month, the regional economy as measured by at place employment expanded, with growth among special trade contractors, eating and drinking establishments, business services and miscellaneous services leading the advance.

WESTERN MARYLAND

In the Western region, rising employment helped to reduce the number of jobless workers by more than 2,100 persons and to lower the regional unemployment rate for the third consecutive month to 7.8 percent in April. Garrett County's rate, while remaining the regional high in April, showed the most noteworthy movement, both short and long-term. Unemployment in the county, which started out the year at 14.8 percent, dropped

by more than two full percentage points over the most recent month to 10.6 percent. While labor force declines have contributed to the county's improvement, employment has also grown in Garrett, with April's gain accounting for nearly two-thirds of the year-to-date expansion. At the regional level, hiring during April was reported in trade, services and construction.

TALBOT-CAROLINE LMA

The number of employed in the area rose by just over 500 persons, causing joblessness to fall from 6.4 percent to 4.8 percent. Within the region,

jobseekers took advantage of the growing number of seasonal opportunities in hotels, restaurants and other trade establishments.

WICOMICO-SOMERSET LMA

Seasonal expansion helped to boost employment in the area and drop the unemployment rate by a full percentage point to 8.2 percent in April. Wicomico's rate showed the largest movement,

dropping to 6.8 percent. Hiring in business services and restaurants helped to uplift local labor market conditions during April.

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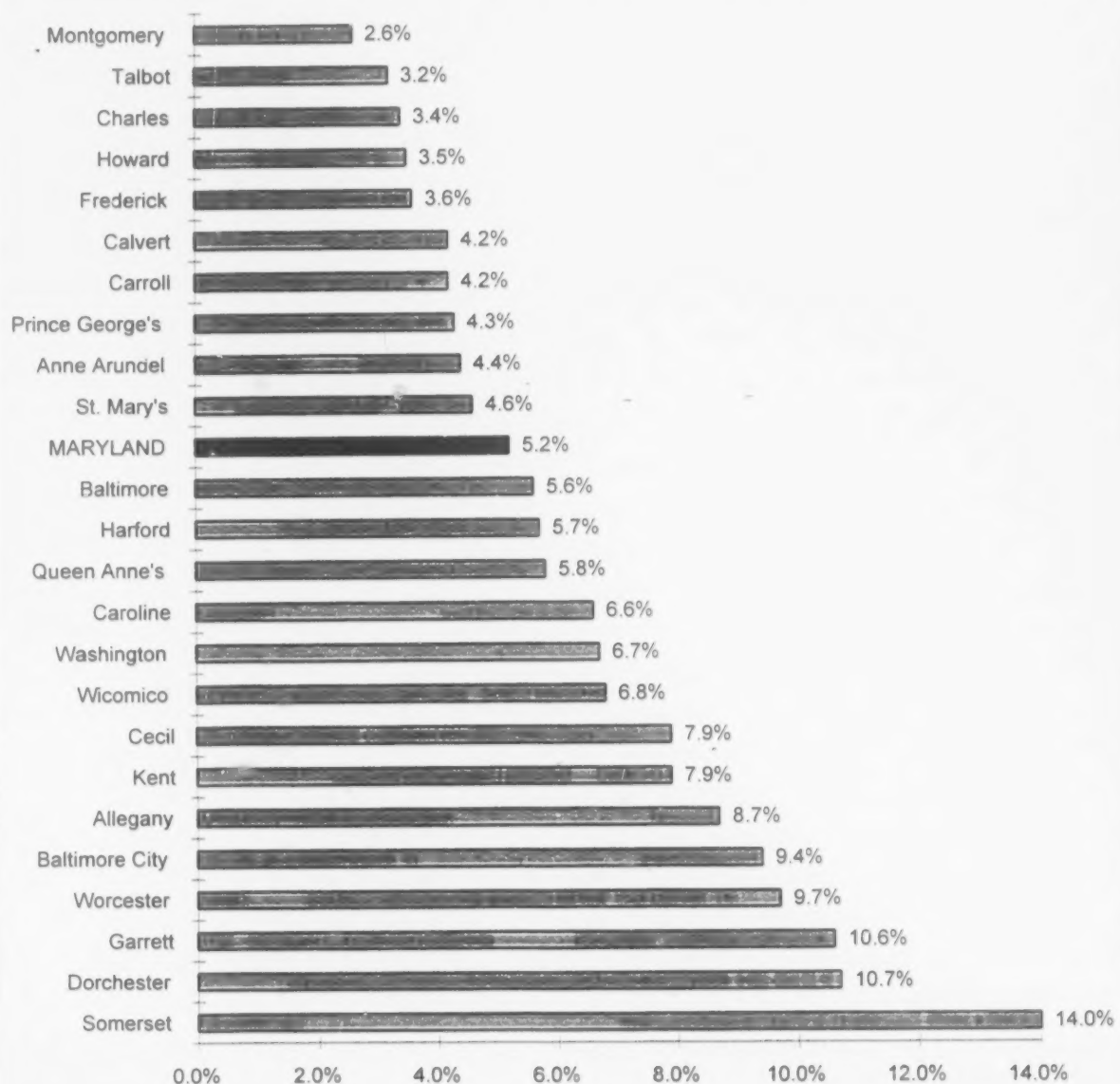
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BALANCE OF STATE

Employment growth, coupled with a reduction in the number of jobseekers in the region, lowered the unemployment count by over 1,800 persons and the jobless rate from 8.9 percent to 7.5 percent.

Declining unemployment was the norm throughout the region with the exception of Kent County where a temporary shutdown in manufacturing was reported.

LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES--APRIL 1994



STATE OF MARYLAND
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE
APRIL 1994

AREA	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	APRIL	MARCH*	APRIL	MARCH*	APRIL	MARCH*	APRIL	MAR. 1994*	APR. 1993***
MARYLAND	2,632,196	2,647,483	2,496,227	2,494,606	135,969	152,877	5.2	5.8	6.0
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA	1,186,747	1,193,510	1,114,065	1,113,204	72,682	80,306	6.1	6.7	7.1
BALTIMORE CITY	312,531	313,169	283,268	283,049	29,263	30,120	9.4	9.6	10.1
ANNE ARUNDEL	221,296	222,587	211,554	211,390	9,742	11,197	4.4	5.0	5.7
BALTIMORE	360,863	362,740	340,488	340,225	20,375	22,515	5.6	6.2	6.8
CARROLL	66,432	67,487	63,612	63,562	2,820	3,925	4.2	5.8	5.9
HARFORD	97,118	98,637	91,573	91,502	5,545	7,135	5.7	7.2	6.4
HOWARD	110,953	111,191	107,031	106,949	3,922	4,242	3.5	3.8	3.8
QUEEN ANNE'S	17,555	17,699	16,540	16,527	1,015	1,172	5.8	6.6	6.3
D. C. AREA	1,115,232	1,122,468	1,076,584	1,079,551	38,648	42,917	3.5	3.8	4.0
CALVERT	32,214	32,504	30,866	30,951	1,348	1,553	4.2	4.8	4.5
CHARLES	59,062	59,358	57,044	57,201	2,018	2,157	3.4	3.6	4.3
FREDERICK	92,195	94,079	88,896	89,141	3,299	4,938	3.6	5.2	4.8
MONTGOMERY	472,880	475,659	460,452	461,721	12,428	13,938	2.6	2.9	3.1
PRINCE GEORGE'S	458,880	460,868	439,326	440,537	19,554	20,331	4.3	4.4	4.8
WESTERN MARYLAND	113,301	114,200	104,463	103,229	8,838	10,971	7.8	9.6	9.8
ALLEGANY	34,325	34,474	31,333	30,897	2,992	3,577	8.7	10.4	10.4
GARRETT	13,626	13,717	12,177	11,909	1,449	1,808	10.6	13.2	15.0
WASHINGTON	65,350	66,009	60,953	60,423	4,397	5,586	6.7	8.5	8.3
TALBOT-CAROLINE LMA	32,762	32,759	31,195	30,670	1,567	2,089	4.8	6.4	6.1
CAROLINE	15,301	15,237	14,298	14,058	1,003	1,179	6.6	7.7	8.7
TALBOT	17,461	17,522	16,897	16,612	564	910	3.2	5.2	3.8
WICOMICO-SOMERSET LMA	57,162	56,884	52,453	51,654	4,709	5,230	8.2	9.2	8.3
SOMERSET	11,583	11,479	9,965	9,813	1,618	1,666	14.0	14.5	14.3
WICOMICO	45,579	45,405	42,488	41,841	3,091	3,564	6.8	7.8	6.8
BALANCE OF STATE	126,992	127,661	117,467	116,298	9,525	11,363	7.5	8.9	7.9
CECIL	37,689	38,079	34,702	34,631	2,987	3,448	7.9	9.1	7.7
DORCHESTER	16,777	16,766	14,984	14,738	1,793	2,028	10.7	12.1	11.6
KENT	10,444	10,193	9,619	9,443	825	750	7.9	7.4	6.1
ST. MARY'S	41,252	41,131	39,356	38,970	1,896	2,161	4.6	5.3	5.4
WORCESTER	20,830	21,492	18,806	18,516	2,024	2,976	9.7	13.8	11.1
UNITED STATES**	129,682,000	129,718,000	121,604,000	120,844,000	8,078,000	8,874,000	6.2	6.8	6.8

*Estimates for the state are revised.

**Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

***Data for 1994 are not directly comparable with data for 1993 and earlier years. Further information is available upon request.

NOTE: Figures may not add due to rounding. These are estimates relating to the week of the 12th of each month. The count is of persons not jobs. All data are not seasonally adjusted.

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS BY PLACE OF WORK

Maryland's industrial payrolls, buoyed by a second month of seasonal gains, picked up some 25,700 jobs over the month. April's increase, the second best gain for the month since 1988, raised the job count to 2,109,400—more than 20,000 above last year's total. Hiring activity was strongest in the service economy, with the services and retail trade industries turning in the best performances. These two industries, when combined, accounted for seven out of every ten jobs created by Maryland employers during April.

The services industry, which has enjoyed uninterrupted growth since January, was a major contributor to the job market during April. Close to 46.0 percent of the increase in overall employment during April was centered in the services sector, a gain which translated into an additional 11,800 jobs. Employment gains were primarily seasonal in nature, with the largest increases noted in agricultural services, amusements, business services and hotels. Expansion in these and other industries helped to offset moderate declines in personal services and engineering/management firms.

The trade sector also supported the seasonal upturn, contributing 7,400 jobs to April's employment forecast. Hiring in the retail trade component carried the industry movement. With tourism and recreational activities on the rise, hiring picked up at local restaurants. In each of the state's four regions, gains in retail employment was fueled by an upturn at eating and drinking establishments. Employment at building material and garden supply stores rose as consumers began to buy for their indoor and outdoor home improvement projects. Job counts at apparel stores and auto dealers also increased, rounding out the industry upturn. Gains in these industries more than compensated for declines reported at food stores, home furnishing stores and miscellaneous retail establishments.

The construction industry continued its seasonal rebound, with April's gain of 5,700 jobs marking the second consecutive month of expansion. Expansion in the construction trades was reported across the state. All three construction components

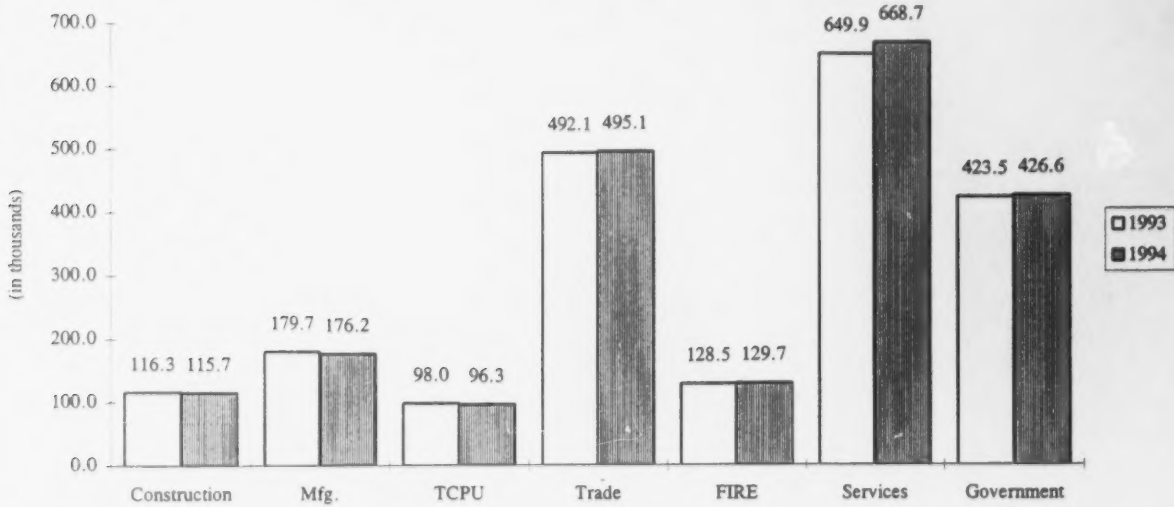
reported hiring activity over the month. Just over 50.0 percent of the overall increase resulted from growth among special trade contractors. Demand also increased noticeably among heavy contractors as repair work began on weather damaged roadways.

Job availability in the finance, insurance and real estate industry was also greater in April, with gains in real estate accounting for about 60.0 percent of the monthly upturn. Meanwhile, employment in transportation, communications and utilities, which normally rises during April, barely managed to hold its own this year. While gains were reported in water transportation, miscellaneous transportation services and communications, strike activity in trucking downplayed these advances.

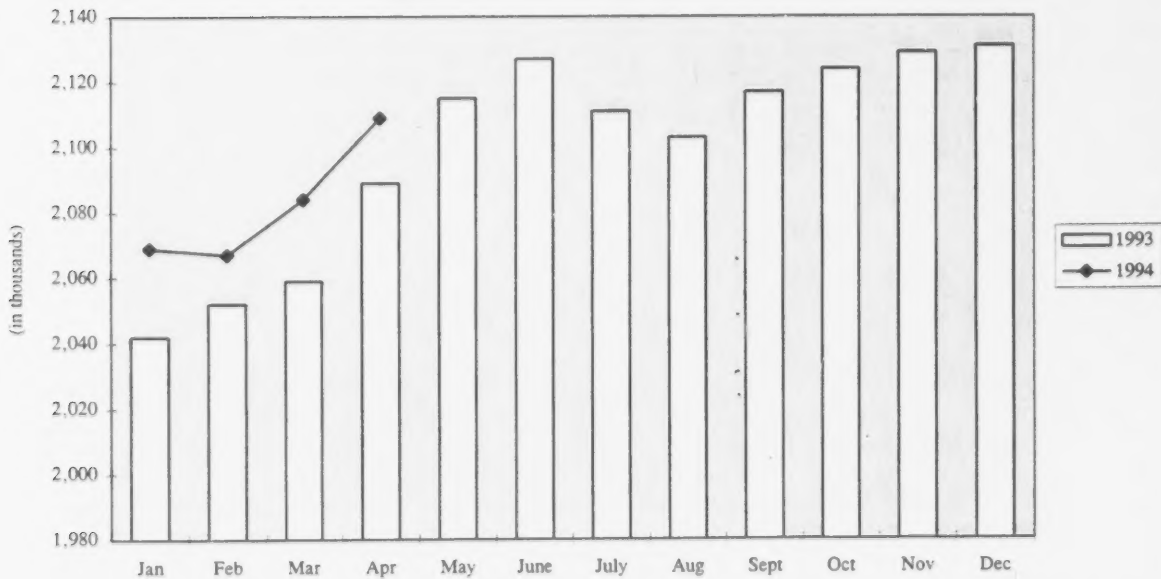
Following six months of declining employment, the manufacturing industry staged a modest turnaround. Factory employment rose by about 600 jobs over the month, with the bulk of the increase centered among durable goods producers. Manufacturers of stone products, industrial machinery, electronic equipment and transportation equipment were sources of hiring activity in the durable goods component. In nondurable goods, the upturn reported in rubber products was tempered by reductions reported in food processing industries, the largest of which occurred in the Balance of State Area.

While hours and earnings estimates for overall manufacturing were unchanged over the month, holding at 41.6 hours and \$13.02 per hour, there were fluctuations in durable and nondurable goods components. In durable goods, production workers put in about 42.9 hours per week in April, down from 43.2 hours and earned \$13.82 per hour, a drop from \$13.91 in March. Workers in nondurable goods industries, on the hand, worked about 40.6 hours in April, up from 40.3 hours, at an hourly pay rate of \$12.34, up from \$12.27. Printing and publishing, the only nondurable industry to shorten its workweek, nonetheless paid the highest weekly wage due to a 3.0 percent increase in hourly pay rates.

**MARYLAND NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY
APRIL 1993 AND APRIL 1994**



**TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT
JANUARY 1993 THROUGH APRIL 1994**



NOTE: Data are not seasonally adjusted.

MARYLAND
NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT* BY INDUSTRY
BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)
APRIL 1994

Industry	April 1994	March** 1994	April 1993	Percent Change April 1993- April 1994
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	2,109.4	2,083.7	2,089.1	1.0
Goods Producing	293.0	286.7	297.1	-1.4
Mining	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0
Construction	115.7	110.0	116.3	-0.5
Heavy Construction	13.5	11.4	13.6	-0.7
Manufacturing	176.2	175.6	179.7	-1.9
Durable Goods	86.4	85.9	87.9	-1.7
Lumber & Wood Products	3.7	3.7	3.8	-2.6
Stone, Clay, & Glass Products	6.6	6.4	6.5	1.5
Concrete, Gypsum, Plaster	3.9	3.8	3.8	2.6
Other Stone, Clay, & Glass	2.7	2.6	2.7	0.0
Primary Metal Industries	8.2	8.3	8.7	-5.7
Blast Furnaces	6.6	6.7	7.0	-5.7
Fabricated Metal Products	8.3	8.3	8.5	-2.4
Fabricated Structural Metal Products	3.1	3.1	3.3	-6.1
Other Fabricated Metal Products (Inc. 342,343,345-349)	4.4	4.4	4.4	0.0
Industrial Machinery	14.6	14.4	14.7	-0.7
Refrigeration & Service Machinery	2.4	2.3	2.4	0.0
Other Industrial Machinery & Equipment (Inc. 352-357)	8.1	8.1	8.4	-3.6
Electronic Equipment	13.0	12.9	13.1	-0.8
Communications Equipment	5.0	4.9	4.7	6.4
Electronic Component	3.1	3.1	3.3	-6.1
Other Electronic Equipment	4.9	4.9	5.1	-3.9
Transportation Equipment	10.5	10.4	10.7	-1.9
Motor Vehicles	4.6	4.6	4.5	2.2
Other Transportation (Inc. 372-375,379)	3.9	3.9	4.1	-4.9
Instruments & Related	16.3	16.3	16.8	-3.0
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0
Nondurable Goods	89.8	89.7	91.8	-2.2
Food & Kindred Products	20.8	21.1	21.6	-3.7
Meat Products	4.7	5.0	5.3	-11.3
Beverages	3.9	3.9	3.8	2.6
Other Food & Kindred (Inc. 202-207)	7.6	7.6	8.0	-5.0
Textile Mill, Apparel	8.6	8.6	8.9	-3.4
Paper & Allied Products	8.5	8.5	8.9	-4.5
Printing & Publishing	27.5	27.5	27.4	0.4
Chemicals and Allied Products	13.5	13.5	14.1	-4.3
Rubber & Miscellaneous Plastics	8.6	8.4	8.6	0.0

Industry	April 1994	March** 1994	April 1993	Percent Change April 1993- April 1994
Service Producing	1,816.4	1,797.0	1,792.0	1.4
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	96.3	96.3	98.0	-1.7
Transportation	54.7	54.9	55.1	-0.7
Railroad Transportation	3.0	3.0	3.0	0.0
Trucking & Warehousing	27.2	28.1	27.9	-2.5
Communications & Utilities	41.6	41.4	42.9	-3.0
Communications	26.6	26.4	26.5	0.4
Electric, Gas, Sanitary	15.0	15.0	16.4	-8.5
Trade	495.1	487.7	492.1	0.6
Wholesale Trade	100.7	100.4	100.2	0.5
Retail Trade	394.4	387.3	391.9	0.6
Building Materials, Garden Supplies	16.7	15.7	16.9	-1.2
General Merchandise Stores	39.6	39.6	40.4	-2.0
Food Stores	64.2	64.7	61.8	3.9
Eating & Drinking Places	129.0	123.0	130.0	-0.8
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	129.7	129.2	128.5	0.9
Finance	59.8	59.7	58.0	3.1
Depository Institutions	39.1	39.0	38.7	1.0
Commercial Banks	25.3	25.3	25.4	-0.4
Insurance	36.1	36.0	36.7	-1.6
Insurance Carriers	24.2	24.1	24.4	-0.8
Real Estate	33.8	33.5	33.8	0.0
Services	668.7	656.9	649.9	2.9
Business Services	143.1	140.6	136.4	4.9
Health Services	179.8	178.7	174.7	2.9
Hospitals	81.3	81.4	81.2	0.1
Legal Services	15.7	15.6	15.5	1.3
Educational Services	40.7	40.5	39.2	3.8
Private Colleges, Universities	23.6	23.5	22.0	7.3
Total Government	426.6	426.9	423.5	0.7
Total Federal Government	131.8	132.2	134.5	-2.0
Total State & Local Government	294.8	294.7	289.0	2.0
Total State Government	98.2	98.0	96.7	1.6
State Education	35.5	35.6	35.7	-0.6
Other State Government	62.7	62.4	61.0	2.8
Total Local Government	196.6	196.7	192.3	2.2
Local Education	120.8	120.8	118.7	1.8
Other Local Government	75.8	75.9	73.6	3.0

*The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

NOTE: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding and exclusion of some SIC's.

Data are not seasonally adjusted.

**Estimates are revised.

Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT* BY INDUSTRY
BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)
BY REGION--APRIL 1994

Industry	Baltimore Metropolitan Area		Maryland Portion D.C. Suburbs		Western Maryland		Eastern Shore- Southern Maryland	
	Apr. 1994	Mar. 1994**	Apr. 1994	Mar. 1994**	Apr. 1994	Mar. 1994**	Apr. 1994	Mar. 1994**
Total Nonagricultural Employment	1,090.1	1,076.3	776.3	767.7	94.4	92.2	144.1	140.6
Goods Producing	159.4	157.1	83.9	81.4	20.6	19.6	29.2	29.0
Mining	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.2
Construction	53.8	51.7	49.8	47.5	4.7	4.0	8.0	7.3
Manufacturing	105.4	105.3	33.9	33.7	15.2	15.0	21.0	21.5
Durable Goods	53.7	53.5	17.1	17.0	6.7	6.6	8.7	8.7
Nondurable Goods	51.7	51.8	16.8	16.7	8.5	8.4	12.3	12.8
Service Producing	930.7	919.2	692.4	686.3	73.8	72.6	114.9	111.6
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	50.7	51.3	31.3	31.1	5.2	5.2	8.3	8.4
Trade	246.7	242.3	185.1	182.7	24.5	24.1	36.2	34.2
Wholesale Trade	58.8	58.8	31.1	30.8	4.5	4.5	5.5	5.4
Retail Trade	187.9	183.5	154.0	151.9	20.0	19.6	30.7	28.8
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	72.4	72.2	47.6	47.4	3.3	3.2	4.9	4.8
Services	349.0	342.4	256.2	252.9	24.0	23.7	37.4	36.0
Total Government	211.9	211.0	172.2	172.2	16.8	16.4	28.1	28.2
Federal	48.0	48.1	74.6	74.7	1.8	1.7	6.8	6.8
State	69.0	68.7	19.4	19.2	5.2	5.1	6.1	6.1
Local	94.9	94.2	78.2	78.3	9.8	9.6	15.2	15.3

*The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

**Estimates are revised.

Selected data below the major industry level is available upon request. Estimates are also available for Baltimore City.

Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

NOTE: Data are not seasonally adjusted.

HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN SELECTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES **APRIL 1994**

Industry	Average Weekly Hours		Average Weekly Earnings		Average Hourly Earnings	
	Apr. 1994	Mar. 1994	Apr. 1994	Mar. 1994	Apr. 1994	Mar. 1994
MARYLAND						
Manufacturing	41.6	41.6	\$541.63	\$541.63	\$13.02	\$13.02
Durable Goods	42.9	43.2	592.88	600.91	13.82	13.91
Lumber and Wood Products	39.7	39.8	361.27	360.19	9.10	9.05
Stone, Clay, and Glass Products	44.1	43.1	540.23	521.94	12.25	12.11
Primary Metal Industries	44.4	44.1	803.64	798.21	18.10	18.10
Fabricated Metals	42.4	42.7	502.44	509.41	11.85	11.93
Industrial Machinery	44.9	47.0	623.66	665.52	13.89	14.16
Electronic Equipment	40.8	42.2	495.72	506.40	12.15	12.00
Transportation Equipment	44.7	43.6	750.96	752.54	16.80	17.26
Instruments and Related Products	39.5	40.0	541.15	550.40	13.70	13.76
Miscellaneous Manufacturing Industries	38.3	38.0	381.85	380.00	9.97	10.00
II						
Nondurable Goods	40.6	40.3	501.00	494.48	12.34	12.27
Food and Kindred Products	41.4	40.9	485.62	481.39	11.73	11.77
Textile Mill, Apparel	37.5	37.0	309.38	305.25	8.25	8.25
Paper and Allied Products	41.0	40.4	543.25	522.78	13.25	12.94
Printing and Publishing	38.8	39.0	571.52	557.70	14.73	14.30
Chemicals and Allied Products	42.3	42.0	562.59	571.20	13.30	13.60
Rubber and Plastic Products	43.3	42.7	450.32	451.34	10.40	10.57
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA						
Manufacturing	41.9	41.6	\$569.84	\$567.42	\$13.60	\$13.64
Durable Goods	43.3	43.7	640.41	648.95	14.79	14.85
Nondurable Goods	40.7	39.7	508.75	495.85	12.50	12.49

NOTE: Data are not seasonally adjusted.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

	April 1994	March 1994	April 1993
Initial Claims	15,357	19,558	16,794
Weeks Claimed	201,773	276,778	221,133
First Payments	7,708	10,048	9,561
Final Payments	5,188	6,856	1,317
Weeks Paid	165,320	228,337	185,756
Net Benefit Amount	\$29,612,726	\$41,219,777	\$33,854,195
Average Check Amount	\$179.12	\$180.52	\$182.25

Initial claims filings declined for the third consecutive month, falling by more than 20.0 percent to their lowest level in more than six months. At 15,357 in April, initials were about 8.5 percent below last year's total. The statewide drop was reflected across the board regionally, with the largest percentage decline, of 35.1 percent, occurring in the Western Maryland Area. At the local level, there were just two unemployment offices, Chestertown and Crisfield, to report an upturn in initial filings. The largest increase occurred at the Chestertown office where a temporary shutdown in manufacturing added to the number of filers during April.

Weeks claimed, which have been steadily rising since the latter months of 1993, were also fewer in April, falling by about 27.0 percent to 201,773. About 82.0 percent of all weeks claimed, or 165,320 weeks, were paid during April, down

27.6 percent from last month and 11.0 percent from April 1993. First payments, also declining over the month, accounted for about 4.7 percent of all weeks compensated during April while final payments, at 5,188, represented about 3.0 percent of all payments issued. With the exception of the Balance of State region where an increase of 8.5 percent was reported, each of the state's regions paid fewer final checks.

With fewer checks to issue in April, the outlay from the UI Trust Fund dropped markedly, falling by nearly 30.0 percent from \$41.2 million in March to \$29.6 million in April. For those claimants receiving benefits, checks were slightly lower at \$179.12 in April. At the regional level, claimants filing in the D.C. Suburbs received the largest checks, with payments averaging \$189.65 per week, about 21.0 percent higher than those issued to filers in the rural Balance of State Area.

REGIONAL INDICATORS APRIL 1994

	BMA	DC Suburbs	Western Maryland	Balance of State
Initial Claims	8,183	3,928	1,284	1,907
Weeks Claimed	101,686	44,014	15,278	24,634
First Payments	4,063	1,794	483	849
Final Payments	2,795	1,178	271	649
Weeks Paid	83,951	36,214	12,909	21,126
Net Benefit Amount	\$15,182,254	\$6,868,058	\$2,108,440	\$3,320,306
Average Check Amount	\$180.85	\$189.65	\$163.33	\$157.17

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